

**Exeter Public Library
Trustees Meeting
September 18, 2018**

Present: S. Canty, L. Haslam, M. LaFreniere, D. Leonard, M. McEntee, J. Peschel, B. Young, L. Wilson, L. Wyskiel, H. Godino

Call to Order: 6:00

Barbara opened the meeting with a roll call. She read 2 letters dated around 1894 from Daniel Chester French concerning a bust that he was making of his father to donate to the library. This bust is currently located in the Reading Area of the library.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the May 15 meeting were accepted. The minutes of the July 31 meeting were accepted with corrections in New Business.

- From Martha:
- 1. "Martha passed out a list of suggestions for a new procedure for the Director's Goal-Oriented Evaluation Process for the Personnel Committee. She asked that Trustees read this and it would be discussed at the September meeting of the Trustees."
- From Jim:
- 2. "Jim distributed the Finance and Fundraising Committee Report, which included the status of the operating, reserve and trust accounts. There is currently \$115,576.55 available in the accounts that could be applied to the renovation project. The Committee recommends that the long-standing practice (1940s vintage) of the Director periodically obtaining the appropriated public expenses (non-salary and benefits) funds be discontinued and the funds in full obtained following the Town Meeting. The remaining 2018 funds should be obtained in a timely manner.

The Committee also recommended two actions related to the Trust Funds:

- The Board should revert to the practice that was in place in 1979 and obtain the interest from the funds on a semi-annual basis. The practice should be limited to the funds 202, 203, 209 & 211 until recommendation 2 (below) is completed.
- Legal assistance be pursued, on a pro bono basis, to revise the conditions of the Trusts to allow the Board of Trustees to determine the most appropriate use of the interest."

Operating Statement:

1. Leslie asked if the museum passes cost more if they were used more. No, there is a yearly cost for all passes. She asked how patrons liked the passes. Hope said that they are very heavily used.
2. Leslie asked about the Programs line and why it looked to be over-budget. Hope said that the library is having more and more programs and more participants.
3. Hope also said that the total percentage number is wrong on the statement.
4. The Operating Statement was accepted.

Director's Report:

Summer programs started with our Second Annual Harry Potter Picnic with 250 Potter fans joining us. The Children's Room summer reading program Reading Rocks! ended with more than 4,000 books read. Special events included 25th Annual Stuffed Pet Show, Zoo Creatures (exotic animals), ceramic painting, juggling, building fairy houses, and a magician. For the older children we offered Book Blast and they read and discussed two books along with a painting project and a scavenger hunt. Other programs include a LEGO club, hand sewing, and a special solving the rubix cube. 2018 Summer Reading Sponsors: Chocolatier, Exeter Bowling Lanes, St. Anthony's Bakery, and Whirligigs.

Story Time has begun. We will have a very special story visitor September 18 & 19, Detective Page from the Exeter Police Department.

Lap-sit has been very well attended. Both lap-sit and story time include a fall craft project. Children's book groups filling up fast. The first book to be discussed are Fergus & Zeke (age 7), Beep & Bob (age 8), Tuesdays at the Castle (age 9 & 10). Open Art is Monday and Friday each week. Our art project for the Fall Equinox Fest on Saturday, September 22 will be Apple Wreaths.

122 teen readers participated in the library's Teen Summer Reading Program, reading a total of 867 books. Teens visited the library for Tuesday's special programs: A Teen Comedy Writing Workshop, Teen Book Groups and a Middle School Book sharing .and on Thursday's for movies and trivia. Teen summer program ended with a Prize Drawing Party- Hamilton is my Jamilton: A Hamilton Karaoke Party. Sponsors for the teen programs were Aroma Joes Coffee on Portsmouth Ave in Exeter, Front Row Pizza, The Green Bean, Hannaford Supermarkets, Just the Wright Place for Ice Cream, King Kone, Krypton Comics, Laney & Lu, Las Olas Taqueria, Lexie's, Margaritas Mexican Restaurant, Memories Ice Cream, Moe's Italian Sandwiches, Nadeau's Subs Salads & Wraps, Twin Lantern's Dairy Bar, and Water Street Bookstore.

September 13th the library will host its weekly Thursday after school program, EPL LOVES YA, from 3-5 pm. Teens are invited to participate in a fun line-up of programming from movies, gaming, trivia contests, crafts and more.

Teen Book Groups begin on Saturday October 13.

For Fall Equinox Fest the EPL Loves YA will sponsor a scavenger hunt with prizes in Founders' Park.

On October 15, 22, and 29th the Teen Scene will offer a Film Editing Class. Signups are required for this event.

Book Groups start up in September for adults. The Morning Book Group will meet on September 19th to discuss The Baker's Secret and the Evening Book Group met on September 12th to discuss The Girls. In October both groups will select their 2019 Book List.

On Tuesday September 18 at 6:30 pm join us for “New England Lighthouses and Who Kept Them” with Jeremy D’entremont. Travel to France with Rob Garneau on Tuesday October 9 at 6:30 pm. The fall Music Series begins on September 25 with singer songwriter Brian Walker.

The kickoff for Exeter’s One Town, One Book” is September 27 at 6:30 pm in the library meeting room. This year’s book is Beautiful Boy by Davis Sheff, a father’s journey through his son’s meth addiction. Then on October 22 at 6:30 pm we will show the PBS documentary Understanding the Opioid Epidemic. There will also be several small group discussions: October 3 at 7 pm Christ Church; October 10 at 6 pm Congregational Church in Exeter; October 16 at 10 am The Exeter Public Library; October 25 at First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter; November 4 at 3 pm Water Street Bookstore; with a closing event November 13 at 7 pm at the Congregational Church in Exeter.

Book talks at various senior facilities continue to be very popular. Movies are the first and third Monday of the month at 1 pm alternating newly released DVDs and classic films.

All library programs are free and open to the public

Building & Grounds:

- Hope has met with the Planning Board and told them about the renovation project. Most of the Board is behind the project. The next step is for it to go to the Budget Recommendation Committee in November.

Finance & Fundraising:

- Jim said that we have received the first payment of our loan from the Exeter Historical Society.
- He said that the library staff’s salaries will increase in 2019 at the same rate as the town’s non-union employees. The library staff will receive the equivalent of a 1-step increase on the town’s non-union pay scale.
- The budget for next year was discussed. The preliminary budget has a \$10,502 increase in public services for 2019. If the renovation does not go through this year, the library will still need some repairs, a new HVAC system and repairs to the roof/ceiling. The Trustees accepted the budget for 2019.
- Jim addressed the revised Financial Policy. The Trustees went over the policy word for word, line for line and changes were approved after each section was reviewed.

Long Range Plan: -0-

Personnel and Policy:

- The new Director’s Goal-Oriented Evaluation was discussed. Martha passed out a tentative time-line of steps that she and Leslie had come up with. Since Hope thought the timeline should be different, the Trustees decided to finalize the events first. Martha and Leslie will meet to solidify the list of events to send out to everyone before the next Trustees Meeting.

Social: The date for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon will be announced soon.

Friends: The Friends still need a Treasurer. They hope to be at the October Farmer's Market in Exeter.

The next meeting will be October 16 at 6:00 pm.

Pam Darlington